

# WESTWOODWORD



SPRING/SUMMER 2022



## Westwood Moves all Voting Precincts Under One Roof at WHS

### Important Information for the April 26 Election



Voters in Westwood will head to the high school to cast their ballots this month. The Town is announcing a consolidation of polling places for the Westwood Town Election on April 26, 2022. The change - which moves all precincts under one roof at WHS - was prompted by shifts in local population as determined by the 2020 U.S. Census. Town officials were forced to reconfigure voting precincts so that each contains roughly an equal number of residents, with no precinct exceeding 4,000 voters.



The benefits of this new plan include:


- Surrounding communities have found that consolidation of precincts has proven to be cost effective and has resulted in a more efficient Election Day process.
- One location is easier for voters that are not sure where their precinct is and voters can be directed to their correct precinct without having to leave the building.
- Candidates and their supporters can be at one place to campaign and receive unofficial election results quickly when polls close.
- Westwood High School is centrally located and the most convenient location to consolidate all the precincts. It is the largest public building in Westwood, is ADA compliant and is easily accessible via several roadways.

All households were recently sent a post-card with detailed information regarding these changes. It will be helpful for voters to bring the card with them on Election Day so that you know what precinct you will be voting in.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**Wednesday, April 20, 2022:**  
5:00 p.m. is the deadline to apply for an absentee ballot

**Monday, April 25, 2022:**  
Deadline to vote absentee in person is 12:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 26, 2022:**   
Annual Town Election, polls open from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. All voting will take place in the Gymnasium at Westwood High School.

**Monday, May 2, 2022:**  
Annual Town Meeting at Westwood High School Auditorium. Check-in at 5:30 p.m.; Awards & Recognitions at 6:00 p.m.; Meeting begins 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 6, 2022:**  
State Primary

**Tuesday, November 8, 2022:**  
State Election

Census data shows Westwood's population increased by 1,648 between 2020 and 2022, and now stands at 16,266. Due to this increase, the town had to establish a fifth voting precinct. Last month, the Westwood Select Board accepted the recommendation of the Town Clerk and the Board of Registrars to consolidate all voting locations into one place. **From now on, all registered voters will cast ballots at the Westwood High School gymnasium**, located at 200 Nahatan Street. Voters are advised to use the entrance for Westwood Recreation off Nahatan St. and look for signs.

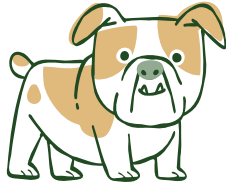
When school is in session, from 7:25 a.m. to 2:05 p.m., there will be designated parking in the Recreation/Preschool parking lot. Because high school students already have designated parking spots in this lot, voters will not have access to those numbered spots until after school is dismissed.

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## Dog Licensing

Westwood residents are required to secure a license for their dogs. Those who have not yet received a 2022 license for their dog can still do so, but will have to pay an additional \$25 fee. Here is what you need to know about licensing your dog:



- Licenses are valid from January 1, 2022 until December 31, 2022.
- You may license your dog by mail, provided you include a copy of a current rabies certificate and a self-addressed stamped envelope. If you are licensing your dog for the first time, please provide proof the animal was spayed or neutered.
- You may license your dog online by going to the following link: [www.doglicenses.us/MA/Westwood](http://www.doglicenses.us/MA/Westwood)
- All dogs six months and older must be licensed on an annual basis.
- According to Westwood's zoning bylaws, anyone owning more than three adult dogs must receive a personal kennel permit.
- Any person age 70 or older is exempt from the annual fee for one dog, per household, per year.

### LICENSING FEES:

- Dogs not Neutered or Spayed: \$15.00
- Dogs Neutered or Spayed: \$10.00
- Postage: \$1.00
- Online only processing fee: \$2.00

For information about kennel fees, or if you are unsure of the fee you owe, please contact the Town Clerk's office by phone: 781-326-3964 or by email: [townclerk@townhall.westwood.ma.us](mailto:townclerk@townhall.westwood.ma.us).

## Town Census Information

If you have not returned the **annual town census**, please do so as soon as possible. Failure to return the census may cause a voter to be designated as inactive on the voting list.

If your household did not receive a 2022 **annual town census** form, please contact the Town Clerk's office by phone at (781) 326-6450 or go online to [www.townhall.westwood.ma.us](http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us) and search "census".

Completed census forms may be either returned by mail or scanned and emailed to: [census@town.westwood.ma.us](mailto:census@town.westwood.ma.us)

### Dear Westwood Community,

As Superintendent, I want to thank the Westwood community for its continued support and investment in our schools. This community has a long-standing commitment to providing an excellent educational experience for its children. Together, we have created a school system that has weathered the challenges of the pandemic in a manner that allowed our students to continue to learn and thrive. I'm so proud of the work that our students and teachers do every day in our classrooms to fulfill our core mission of preparing students for college, career, and civic life by providing a challenging curriculum, high-quality instruction, and authentic educational experiences.



I am pleased to report that our students continue to achieve. On last spring's MCAS exam, Westwood's grades 3 - 8 scores in aggregate ranked 7th in all of Massachusetts for English language arts and 15th in Massachusetts for math. Our grade 5 scores on the Science, Technology and Engineering assessment ranked 6th in the state. This fall, Westwood High School ranked No. 14 on Boston Magazine's list of top schools and U.S. News and World Report rated Martha Jones School the No. 1 elementary school in Massachusetts. In addition, the Westwood Public Schools was recently designated No. 7 on the 2022 Niche list of best school districts in the state. And, despite a challenging couple of years, our seniors continue to have wonderful outcomes in the college admissions process, including acceptance into some of the most selective schools in the country.

What's more, from preschool to graduation, our students continue to grow as artists, musicians, athletes and community members. With the many restrictions of the pandemic lifted, I hope you can join us this spring for a game or a concert. Come see our students in action!

Best wishes for a wonderful spring.

With appreciation,

Emily J. Parks  
Superintendent



## Spring Sports in Full Swing at Westwood High School

Our 2022 spring sports season kicked off with tryouts last month. All teams are now in the midst of competing against other schools from across our league and the state in the hopes of making the playoffs.

Westwood residents are invited to cheer on our spring sports teams at home or away games.

**FULL SCHEDULE  
CAN BE FOUND  
HERE:**



## Unified Basketball Team Debuts at Thurston Middle School

Thurston Middle School held its first ever Unified Basketball game in March. Unified Sports is a Special Olympics program that brings students with and without intellectual disabilities together to train and compete on the same team. Westwood High School has been recognized by the Special Olympics as a "Unified Champion School" - the term for a school that includes all students in ways to be socially inclusive and supportive of all learners. The district is eager to continue to expand the Unified teams throughout other levels.

## Spring Student Performances



Join us for these upcoming performances which are free and open to the public:

### Middle School/High School Jazz Concert

Tuesday, May 5, 7 p.m. at the High School Auditorium

### All-Town String Concert

Tuesday, May 24, 7 p.m. at the High School Auditorium

### Middle School Chorus Concert

Thursday, May 26, 7 p.m. at the High School Auditorium

### High School Spring Showcase

Tuesday, May 31, 7 p.m. at the High School Auditorium

### Middle School Band Concerts

Thursday, June 2, 7 p.m. at the High School Auditorium

### High School Theater for Young Audiences: "Winnie the Pooh"

Thursday, June 9 or Friday, June 10 at 5:30 p.m.; or Saturday, June 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the High School Courtyard



Students at Thurston Middle School rehearse for the spring performance of *The Secret Garden*.



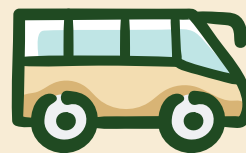
Will Presley



Greg Walsh #21, Eddie Piquani #34

## SAVE THE DATE!

Annual "Wheels on the Bus" event  
scheduled for incoming kindergarten families



**TUESDAY, JUNE 14  
OR WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 17  
AT 6:00 p.m.**

**LITTLE THEATER AT WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**  
Led by Westwood's School Resource Officer Brad Pindel, this informational session provides incoming kindergarteners with the chance to board a real school bus and learn about safe bus behavior.

**No pre-registration is required.** Parents may choose to attend either session with their incoming kindergarten child.

## Holocaust Survivor Shares His Story with Westwood Eighth-Graders

Before 95-year-old Holocaust survivor Aron Greenfield spoke a word to eighth-graders from Westwood's Thurston Middle School, Rabbi Karen Citrin of Temple Beth David gave them a suggestion.

"I challenge you to listen and to imagine what it would be like to be in his shoes," said Citrin, who started her introduction with the story of her Uncle Harry and the number 141421. That number was tattooed on her uncle's arm, and decades later she says that number is imprinted in her memory.

Greenfield was only 15-years-old when his entire family was forced out of their home in Poland and into the ghettos. Rabbi Citrin pointed out that Greenfield wasn't much older than students he was addressing when he faced unimaginable atrocities.

"On September 1, 1939, my childhood and our lives ended," said Greenfield, recalling the day they were made to leave. "Two months later, our entire town was gathered to watch the hanging of my friend Aron Diamond. I heard him say The Shema (a Jewish prayer), and then he was gone."

Diamond was hanged for taking a piece of coal from a friendly Polish man. That man, and about 20 others, were hanged alongside Diamond for aiding Jewish families. Over 80 years later, Greenfield still has trouble sharing that story without emotion in his voice. He was one of nine children, and only two would survive WWII.

"The eighth grade ELA curriculum focuses on individual stories," explained Katherine Stewart, Humanities Department Chair. "These stories are a way for students to understand perspectives, gain empathy, and help them make sense of the world around them. What an honor it was for students to witness Mr. Greenfield's stories in person."

Greenfield recalled that German propaganda started long before any Nazi soldiers set foot onto Polish soil. There were signs throughout his hometown that vilified Jewish people. He said he attended a school that was over 80 percent Cath-

olic, and many days he had to run home from school to avoid the bullies threatening to beat him up.

Once in the ghetto, the 11 members of the Greenfield family, along with three other Jewish families, would share a room the size of an average dining room. "We slept on the floor, on the table," he said. "We didn't care. We were starving."

Food was so scarce that Greenfield and two of his brothers would sneak out early in the morning to get milk to bring home for their baby sister from a friendly Polish farmer. "We knew this was considered a crime and it was very dangerous," Greenfield said.

About 7 months after arriving, Greenfield recalled, ghetto occupants were lined up and forced to go either left or right. His mother insisted he wear adult clothing, because she had figured out those being sent to the left were deemed unfit to work. His mother and sisters were sent to the left. "I saw a Nazi throw my 4-year-old sister into a truck like she was a piece of garbage," he recalled. "I never saw them again."

Greenfield was in nine different concentration camps before he was liberated. He recounted in detail many harrowing stories of the conditions, the starvation and the death all around him. The hope that his parents might still be alive, he said, is what kept him from killing himself.

"At the last camp, we slept on the ground, and we used each other's stomachs as pillows," Greenfield recalled. "I



woke up one morning and the boy under me had died. The first thing I did was steal his shoes. How sad is that?"

After being liberated, Greenfield and his one surviving sibling came to Boston, where he met and married his wife Martha and raised one daughter. Today, they have three grandchildren. The couple resides in Norwood and still work at Brenner's Children's Shop, the retail store they opened together years ago.

"It was an amazing experience to be able to hear this man talk about his experiences," said eighth-grader Hank Murray. "Even now, and maybe later in our lifetime, there [will] be people who say the Holocaust wasn't real, and I think it's our duty to remember the experiences and memories of Aron Greenfield."

During his one-hour talk, Greenfield mentioned that he has been interviewed by historians and the director Steven Spielberg to share his memories. He also warned students that the horror of the Holocaust is not just history. "It's happening around the world right now. It's happening to other people. This is why it's important for them to know. I am a witness to history, and now that you have heard my story, you are a witness, too."

### 7th Grade Writers Contest

On Wednesday, April 6, Thurston Middle School's seventh-grade students attended the Writers Conference, which returned this year after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Writers in attendance included Kip Wilson, Francisco Stork, Jennifer DeLeon, Regie Gibson, Desmond Hall, Mike Reiss, Dave Wedge (virtually), Susan Tan, Nicole Yang, Sarah Marie Jette, Adrienne Kisner, and Rory Power.

Students began the day with a walk to the high school auditorium to listen to a keynote panel, hosted by seventh-grade ELA teachers Caitie Peterson and Tara Goodwin, and featuring local authors DeLeon, Wilson and Stork.

The panelists discussed their experiences as professional authors, their strategies for managing challenges such as writer's block, and how they take inspiration from their life experiences.

## A Homecoming for Westwood's New METCO Coordinator

Candace Bass is a proud alumna of the Westwood High School Class of 2004 and of the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) program. A Roxbury native, Bass journeyed every day from her urban neighborhood to attend school in the suburbs. That was the plan her mother came up with when she was just a baby, and it has led her back to Westwood to oversee the program that shaped her life.

Since the 1960's METCO has enrolled thousands of Boston students of color in predominantly white communities. METCO's mission is to provide students with a "strong academic foundation rich in cultural, educational, ethnic, socioeconomic, and racial diversity," while fostering the opportunity for children from Boston and from neighboring suburbs to develop a deeper understanding of each other in an integrated public-school setting.

"The real world looks a lot like what I experienced in Westwood, as opposed to what my neighborhood in Roxbury was like," Bass explained. "METCO prepared me to be in situations and to be able to socialize with many people from different walks of life."

Calling it a "full circle moment," Bass says she is excited to be the new Elementary School METCO Coordinator for Westwood Public Schools. Westwood is one of only two METCO communities which welcomes Boston students beginning in middle school, but that will change next fall when the town adds 35 elementary school students spread out between kindergarten and fifth grade to

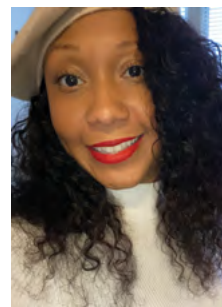
the program. With the addition of these elementary students next year, the district will have about 84 students from Boston.

Bass says her first few years in Westwood were tough. "It was hard to find my footing and middle school is a rough time anyway," she said. "It took some time to acclimate and when you went through something tough, we had a solid foundation with the kids from Boston and there were always adults to support the process."

By the time she entered high school, Bass says, she and other Boston students had really hit their stride. "When the transition to high school took place, it felt very natural. I was vice president of my class, I participated in drama and in the poetry club, and I was on the track and field team."

Lateefah Franck, who serves as Westwood's Director of Diversity, Equity and Community Partnerships, and also oversees the district's METCO program, believes integrating Boston students at a younger age will allow them, and their families, to feel like part of the community at a faster pace.

"The onus is on us to build a community for our Boston students," said Franck. "As we build the program in kindergarten and first grade, almost everyone is a new parent. As educators, we almost have to be facilitators, teaching our kids and their families how to do school. To have our families share that experience from



Candace Bass



Lateefah Franck

the beginning and learn and build relationships will be so meaningful."

Westwood is one of 30 suburban METCO districts in the Commonwealth, but one of only two that has not yet included elementary school students. Bass and Franck emphasized the amount of effort necessary for students and their families from Boston to participate. Bass recalls she would get up at 5:00 a.m. to get to school and typically wouldn't be home until after 5:00 p.m.

"When I talk with Boston families that are coming in, I tell them it's like thinking about an independent school outside of their neighborhood community," said Franck. "The travel commitment is huge. A huge part of school is participating in clubs, sports, and activities. They need to think about the support system they have to support their child. I often tell our teachers there's a level of trust that our Boston families have to have in us in order to send them here. And we need to make sure those students and their families have an additional layer of community here in Westwood."

Bass says her mother was always invested in her daughter's education - right through her time as an undergraduate student at Fisk University in Nashville, as well as her early years teaching at charter schools. Bass's mother passed away three years ago, but she knows her mother would be thrilled to see her back in Westwood.

"I'm excited that this is a homecoming type of moment for me," said Bass. "But at the end of the day, I am an advocate for education. It's a 'cherry on top' that I get to advocate here in Westwood."

When they returned to the middle school, students spent the afternoon in breakout sessions hosted by DeLeon, Wilson, Stork, and nine additional local writers. Students gained insight into writing in genres ranging from fiction, to nonfiction, poetry and sports reporting. The day concluded with a meet and greet with the authors in the library and copies of books provided by Porter Square Books and the TMS PTO.



Tara Goodwin and Caitie Peterson introduce authors Jennifer DeLeon, Kip Wilson, and Francisco Stork

Susan Tan assists students during an idea generation activity



Students in Rory Power's workshop practice generating ideas for stories based on images



# Reminders from the Board of Health

## Private Wells

Many residents may not realize that the Westwood Board of Health (BOH) oversees irrigation and drinking water wells on private property in town. The BOH's private well regulation is intended to protect public health and the general welfare of the residents of Westwood by ensuring that private wells producing water for irrigation and for human consumption are properly constructed and maintained. Protecting the quality of the water obtained from these wells is crucial to the overall health of the water system.

Residents who are selling their homes are required by the regulation to conduct water quality tests for both irrigation and drinking-water wells. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recommends that private wells be tested at regular intervals to ensure the water being consumed is safe. Homeowners should forward the results of their water tests to the BOH office prior to a change in ownership of the property on which the well is located. The full text of the regulation is available on the Board of Health web page at [www.westwoodma.gov](http://www.westwoodma.gov).

For more information, please call Jared Orsini REHS/RS, Health Director at (781) 320-1026.

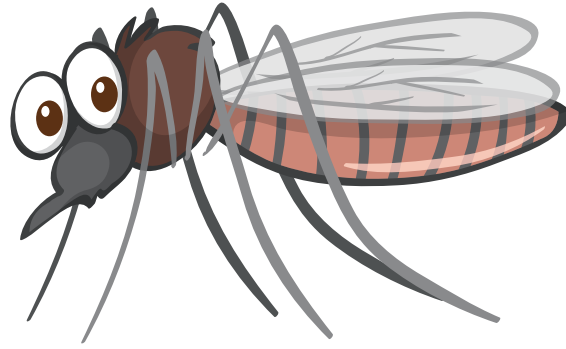
## Ticks

Westwood is home to many parks and open space areas which are regularly utilized by residents. Unfortunately, we do see a number of residents stricken annually with tick-borne diseases that may have come from tick bites here in Westwood. Diseases such as Lyme, Babesiosis, and Anaplasmosis are common in New England and Westwood is no exception. These diseases are transmitted by infected dog and deer ticks that attach to human hosts and transmit disease during feeding. Preventing ticks from attaching to your clothes or skin is the best protection against bites. Wearing long pants and shirts, using an effective insect repellent, and performing tick checks are all important strategies to protect against bites. Make it a habit to check everyone in your house, including pets, for ticks after spending time outdoors.

If you discover a tick embedded in your skin during a tick check, seek timely medical attention or attempt to remove the tick yourself. The proper way to remove a tick is with tweezers:

- Grab the tick near its head or mouth (the part closest to your skin).
- Gently pull the whole tick straight out. Be careful not to crush or twist the tick.
- Wash your hands and the bite with soap and water.
- Put rubbing alcohol on the bite.

Do not use a hot match to kill and remove a tick.



## Mosquitoes

With the warmer weather emerging comes an increase in mosquito activity. As always, the BOH encourages residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites whenever they venture outdoors. There are some common-sense steps we can all take to reduce our chances of mosquito bites:

- Limit your time outdoors during peak periods of mosquito activity (dusk and dawn) or if you must remain outdoors, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. Avoid areas with high mosquito populations such as heavily wooded areas and areas prone to excessive moisture.
- Use a mosquito repellent that contains DEET (the chemical N-N-diethyl-meta-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR3535 (3-[N-butyl-N-Acetyl]-aminopropionic acid) or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-menthane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label.

Please remember that DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under the age of three. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.

- Take special care to cover up the arms and legs of children playing outdoors. When you bring a baby outdoors, cover the baby's carriage or playpen with mosquito netting.
- Fix holes in your screens and make sure they are tightly attached to all your doors and windows.
- Remove areas of standing water around your home.

Adult mosquito control spraying is offered weekly during peak mosquito season by Norfolk County Mosquito Control. If you would like to request mosquito control or get more information, please visit the District's website at [www.norfolkcountymosquito.org](http://www.norfolkcountymosquito.org).



## Travel with the Westwood Senior Center

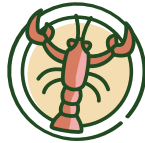
We are “back on the road” and have partnered with Fox Travel to offer fun and exciting trips throughout the summer and fall. Here is a sample of what we will be offering. Please call the Senior Center at 781-329-8799 to reserve your spot!

### Day Trips with Fox Tours

**June 21**

#### Casablanca by the Sea Portland, Maine

Transportation, Seal Harbor narrated boat tour, a full course luncheon at the Bull and Claw Restaurant and shopping at the Old Port in Portland Maine - \$115.00pp. \$15 non-refundable deposit at sign up.



**July 21**

#### Nantucket Fast Ferry



Transportation to Falmouth - tickets on Hy-Line’s High-Speed Fast Ferry ride to beautiful Nantucket Island where you can spend the day enjoying the restaurants shops and museums - \$125.00pp. \$15 non-refundable deposit at sign up.

**August 16**

#### Narragansett Lighthouse Tour

Transportation, a full course luncheon at the Quonset Point Officer’s Club, followed by a narrated Tour of Narragansett Bay



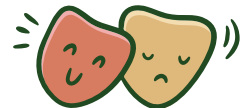
Lighthouses - \$122.00pp. \$15 non-refundable deposit at sign up.

**Sept 20-21, 2022**

#### NYC Broadway Overnight

##### *Come From Away*

Tour includes orchestra seating to the Broadway show “Come From Away”, overnight accommodations at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel, one breakfast and



full-course dinner, and a Ground Zero 9/11 Memorial and Museum visit. Advance sign-up required.

Please note a non-refundable deposit is required when signing up.

Fox Travel requires everyone to show your vaccination card before getting on the bus.



**MORE TRIPS ARE BEING  
PLANNED SO STOP BY AND  
PICK UP FLYERS.**

Don’t forget to check out our newsletter for a complete list of programs and events.

**HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!**

## Town Fund Provides Tax Relief to the Elderly and Disabled

Every year, Westwood provides tens of thousands of dollars in tax relief to senior citizens and disabled residents through the town's Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Tax Fund. The application process, as well as the distribution of funds, is confidential and any resident who is elderly or disabled is eligible to apply.

The fund was established in 1999 after the state authorized its establishment in what it deemed "growing communities" as a way to help ensure seniors wouldn't be priced out of the homes and communities they love.

The fund is overseen by an appointed committee which confidentially considers all applications from elderly or disabled residents. To qualify, seniors must be age 65 or older, with an annual income of less than the state circuit breaker level of approximately \$62,000, and their Westwood home must be the primary residence. Payments are applied directly to the recipient's tax bill.

In 2016, residents voted to approve a home rule petition, which was subsequently approved by the state. It allows for town funds to be used for this program. This additional funding means more people benefit from the fund and the average amount each receives has increased.

Many town residents include a donation to the fund with their quarterly real estate tax bill payment; the fund also receives various corporate donations. The average residents who receives aid is approximately 80-years-old and has lived in Westwood for 40 to 50 years. Between 45 and 55 residents are assisted annually, each receiving an average amount per household of \$1,800, which amounts to approximately 20-25% of their tax bill. Nearly \$1 million has been distributed since the fund's inception.

At the 2022 Town Meeting on May 2, residents will vote whether to allocate \$300,000 toward the fund. This proposed increase will allow for more participants and will also help offset the new school tax impact on senior residents beginning in fiscal year 2024.

Those who are interested in donating to the fund can make a payment online at [www.townhall.westwood.ma.us](http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us). Select "Pay Online" at the top of the page and then "How do I pay real estate bills." Then click on "Donations to Aid to the Elderly Fund" at the bottom of the page. You can also mail a check payable to **"Town of Westwood - Aid to the Elderly & Disabled Tax Fund"** and mail the check to:

### Tax Collector's Office

Westwood Town Hall  
580 High Street  
Westwood, MA 02090

Applications to apply for aid are available online at [www.townhall.westwood.ma.us](http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us). Paper applications can be picked up at the Tax Collector's office at Town Hall, the Senior Center on Nahatan Street, or the library.

*Greetings from the voice that is only heard, never seen, and always here to take your call...*



Left to right: Telecommunicators P. Hogan, M. Jones-Maynard, A. Fiumedora, S. McKee, D. Mucciarone, K. Colson, Dispatch Supervisor J. Chisholm, Telecommunicator S. Cromack, and Communications Manager B. Kamp.  
\*Not pictured: Telecommunicators Ordile and Moore

The Westwood Public Safety Communications Center is a 24-hour, 365-day combined police and fire dispatch center that houses the first, first-responder you will encounter when dialing or texting 911, or when calling the non-emergency business line. The Westwood Public Safety Communications Center is the vital link that connects our residents and visitors with public safety services.

Our highly trained 911 telecommunicators are responsible for answering over 5,500 911 calls, and dispatching the over 39,000 emergency and nonemergency calls for service each year to those who are requesting police, fire, emergency medical services, or animal control services. The telecommunicators are also trained to provide Emergency Medical Dispatch pre-arrival instructions to callers in need of medical assistance. These life-saving instructions range from methods to control bleeding to instructing a caller on how to perform CPR until further help arrives. This information updates responders in real time as they travel to the scene to be able to render the best care possible upon arrival.

As the use of technology evolves, so do Westwood's Public Safety Telecommunicators. The team is consistently training to learn the latest advances in the field to assist those in their time of need. Some of the technological advances include 911 misdials from cellular-based devices, 911 activations from accessory devices such as smart watches, and reports of motor vehicle accidents from automated crash detection systems. With minimal information - just a phone number or location - the Public Safety Telecommunicators use their training and experience to quickly evaluate the situation and initiate the appropriate response.

Westwood is fortunate to have its own state-of-the-art Communications Center housed in the heart of the town center. Our telecommunicators know the town they serve. Many grew up in Westwood. They have a special relationship with the town, which helps them understand our residents' many needs and special circumstances, and provide a level of service unrivaled by area dispatch centers.

When you call us at your worst, we'll send you our best as we are always committed to service!



# SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS AT THE WESTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Main Library

660 High Street  
Westwood, MA 02090  
781-326-7562  
askwestwood@minlib.net

## Islington Branch

273 Washington Street  
Westwood, MA 02090  
781-326-5914  
wwdmail2@minlib.net

## SUMMER READING 2022

The Summer Reading Program at the Westwood Public Library is just around the corner and we are looking forward to a fun summer season filled with activities for all ages!

Kids, teens and adults are invited to read all summer long for a chance to win prizes. Sign up and start logging your books and activities on Beanstack starting June 1 through August 26. Stay tuned for more information on signups.

All Summer Reading Programs are free thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Westwood Library.



## ADULTS

May 11 at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom, Natasha Trethewey will join us to discuss her book, **Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir**. Copies available at both libraries. Registration is required on the library website. Email cconnors@minlib.net with questions.

### AUTHOR VISIT | Jenna Blum | Woodrow on the Bench

Join us **Wednesday, June 1st at 6:30** at the Islington Branch Library for an in-person author talk.



Jenna Blum is the New York Times and internationally bestselling author of novels: *Those Who Saved Us*, *The Stormchasers* and *The Lost Family*. She will be discussing her memoir "Woodrow on the Bench", about her senior black Lab and what he taught her.

### The Fabulous Westwood Poets' Annual Spring Reading

Join poets of the Westwood Tuesday Night Poetry Circle and their friends and families for the first annual spring poetry extravaganza! An open mic for poets - traditional, spoken word and slam - of all ages will follow the formal reading. Sign up for the open mic any time until the day of the event, by emailing Lynne Viti at lviti@wellesley.edu.

**Tuesday May 24 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Main Library Community Meeting Room.



### ARMCHAIR TRAVEL WITH BARRY PELL

**Antarctica - Travels at the End of the World**

All are welcome to this collaborative program offered by the Council on Aging and the Westwood Public Library. Antarctica is the coldest, windiest, driest place on earth. Two-thirds of all our planet's freshwater is locked up there in the form of ice in a continent twice the size of Australia. The last continent to be understood, it is a harsh and unforgiving environment that challenged and took the lives of many early explorers. Although an ice sheet covers 99 percent of the land, the exposed areas along the coast nourish a wealth of tiny plants and sea creatures which in turn support the world's greatest concentrations of wildlife in the sea, on land, and in the air. The lecturer, Barry Pell, traveled by ship to Antarctica for two weeks. Based on his travels on the sea and excursions onto the land, he will discuss and show his photography of this most magnificent and unique continent.

**Thursday, June 9 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Community Meeting Room, Main Library.

Coffee and light refreshments begin at 10:00 a.m.; photo presentation begins at 10:30 a.m.

### Bhutan - Travels in the Land of the Thunder Dragon

The small and predominantly Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan, squeezed between China and India, is tucked within the rugged Himalaya mountains and mostly covered with thick forest. Monasteries, often massive and commanding, abound, with crimson-robed monks performing centuries-old rituals. The country has no traffic lights, smoking is illegal and employees must wear traditional clothing during work hours. Years ago, Gross National Happiness was identified by the nation as being more important than Gross National Product. Barry Pell recently traveled through the country, meeting its people and learning about their history and culture. Accompanied by his photography, he will discuss insights into a fascinating way of life that has only just begun to change after centuries of isolation.

**Thursday, August 25 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Main Library Community Meeting Room.

Coffee and light refreshments begin at 10:00 a.m.; photo presentation begins at 10:30 a.m.



**SPROUT INTO SPRING & SUMMER**

Bloom Zoom has sprouted a new name. Welcome to the Living Library series! The Living Library project at Westwood Public Library is a grassroots project to promote continuing education and awareness about sustainability, ecological systems and native landscapes in a way that is educational, fun, and relevant and applicable to all ages.



**Bloom Zoom**, which is now under the umbrella of Living Library, is a floral and gardening programming series created to support interest, encourage continuing education and entertain patrons with hands-on horticultural learning. Stay tuned for more information about the upcoming program on Wednesday, June 22 at Wentworth Hall.



**Braver Angels**

**The Depolarization Discussion**

What happens when you get 10 Hillary supporters and 10 Trump supporters in a room? Join the Westwood Public Library as we welcome Braver Angels to find out. Braver Angels is a citizens' organization uniting red and blue Americans in a working alliance to depolarize America. Join us for a 15-minute Braver Angels documentary screening to find out how Red and Blue Americans found common ground. Discussion to follow.

Stay tuned for more information regarding date and location.

**Open Mah Jongg:** Do you know how to play American Mah Jongg? If so, join our open play group. Please note, gambling of any kind is not allowed in the library. If you don't know how to play Mah Jongg, this group is not for you. There is no need to register, and feel free to bring friends that are able to play, or are happy to sit and watch. No registration required.



Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. at the Main Library Conference Room.

**Sit and Knit:** Join a friendly group to knit and chat.

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. at the Islington Branch Library.



**Westwood Quilters:** Join a friendly group to sit, sew, and share quilting ideas. All skill levels are welcome. No registration required.

Fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Main Library.

**Historical Fiction Book Group:**

Join Claire for a discussion of historical fiction selections spanning every era.



First Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the Islington Branch Library.

**Islington Branch Book Club:** Join Claire for discussion of books new and old with this Wednesday evening book club.

Second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

**Book Share:** Join a friendly group to chat about books on Zoom.

Third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. A Zoom link will be shared via-email post-registration.

**YA for Adult Book Club:** Join Lizzy for a discussion of YA books for the young at heart!

Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Main Library.



**TECHNOLOGY HELP**

Reference librarians are available to help with general troubleshooting with phones, tablets and laptop computers, and also with library apps and websites.

Drop-in technology help is available at the Main Library on **Mondays from 12:00 to 2 p.m.** Ask at the Reference Desk to get started. Drop-in sessions are limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per person. If you have a question, please call 781-320-1045 or email askwestwood@minlib.net.

Technology Help Hours are available at the **Islington Branch** on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Email wwdmail2@minlib.net or call 781-326-5914 to sign up.



## YOUTH

### STORYTIME

**PLEASE NOTE:** registration is required for all storytime events. Please sign up two weeks before each date on the library website.

**Alphabits at the Branch at 10:30 a.m.** Join us at the Branch for an alphabet-themed storytime! This story time is best suited for preschool-aged children. Mondays, **May 2 through May 23.**

**Terrific Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.** Join us for songs, stories and dancing in this all ages storytime. Register on the website for each date: **May 3 through May 24.**

**Wondrous Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.** Join us for songs, stories and dancing in this all ages storytime! Register on the website for each date: **May 4 through May 24.**

**Baby Rhyme Time at 10:30 a.m.** Babies 0-18 months are invited to join us for a lullaby with songs and rhymes, followed by open play. Register on the website for each date: Fridays, **May 6 through May 27.**

### SATURDAY PROGRAMS

**Saturday Storytime:** Join us for songs, stories and dancing in this all ages storytime. Register on the website. **May 7 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Read to a Dog:** Kids in grades K-5 can sign up for a one-on-one appointment with a therapy dog to practice their reading. Families must call or stop by the Children's room to sign up. **May 14 11:00 a.m.**

**Munchkin Mornings:** Stop by for a drop-in morning of play! Use our toys, books, art supplies, and more! No registration required. **May 21 at 10:30 a.m.**

### TEENS

**YAB (Youth Advisory Board):** Interested in volunteering at the library? Join us on the second Wednesday of the month to help revamp the Teen Department at the Westwood Public Library. Register on the website. **Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Gamer Lounge with One Up Games:** Middle Schoolers can come to the library on Early Release Wednesdays for two hours of open game play with One Up Games featuring SuperSmash Bro., Fortnite, MarioKart, and more! **Wednesday, May 25 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Fri-YAY!:** Come hang out with your friends and relax. Play video or board games, listen to music and catch up on new movies and books. **Fridays after school at 3:00 p.m.**

**Sign up for the library's Newsletter!** Get a list of upcoming events in your inbox every month. Sign up at [www.westwoodlibrary.org/newsletter](http://www.westwoodlibrary.org/newsletter).



## Islington Branch

Westwood's Islington Branch Library held a ribbon cutting on February 14 to celebrate its grand re-opening and welcome back patrons.

Stop by and check out some of our new offerings. We have hotspots, computers, a printer, copier, tech help, an expanded FOL book nook and, of course, plenty of new books and magazines. Come meet our wonderful staff and see the beautiful new space for yourself. When you drop by, we hope you will check out our mural in the children's section, pick out some new titles to read or listen to, and take a few minutes to see the new business center. **Our expanded hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**





# Westwood Recreation



JOIN US  
SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 17



## FOR WESTWOOD DAY 2022!

5K - 9:00 a.m. / FUN RUN 10:00 a.m.

ACTIVITIES - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

FOOD COURT - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

VENDOR VILLAGE - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### SPONSORSHIPS

Richard Adams: radams@townhall.westwood.ma.us

### VENDOR VILLAGE

Brian Macdonald: bmacdonald@townhall.westwood.ma.us

### FOOD COURT

Holly Coots: hcoots@townhall.westwood.ma.us

### ENTERTAINMENT

Joe Bertone: jbertone@townhall.westwood.ma.us

### ACTIVITIES

Kerrie Francis: kfrancis@townhall.westwood.ma.us

### VOLUNTEERS

Angela Lassig: alassig@townhall.westwood.ma.us

### LOGISTICS

Sue Perry: sperry@townhall.westwood.ma.us



MORE INFORMATION AT [WWW.WESTWOODDAY.ORG](http://WWW.WESTWOODDAY.ORG)



# Westwood Annual FISHING DERBY 2022



**Buckmaster Pond  
Saturday May 7th,  
7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

**YOUTH DIVISION  
Ages 15 and under:  
FREE & Prizes for all**

**ADULT DIVISION AGES 16+  
\$10 Entry Fee & Cash Prize**



## SAVE THE DATE! FIREFIGHTER'S FOAM 2022



**Wednesday, July 13th  
Sheehan Field • 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

## Free Mental Health Referral Assistance for Westwood Residents

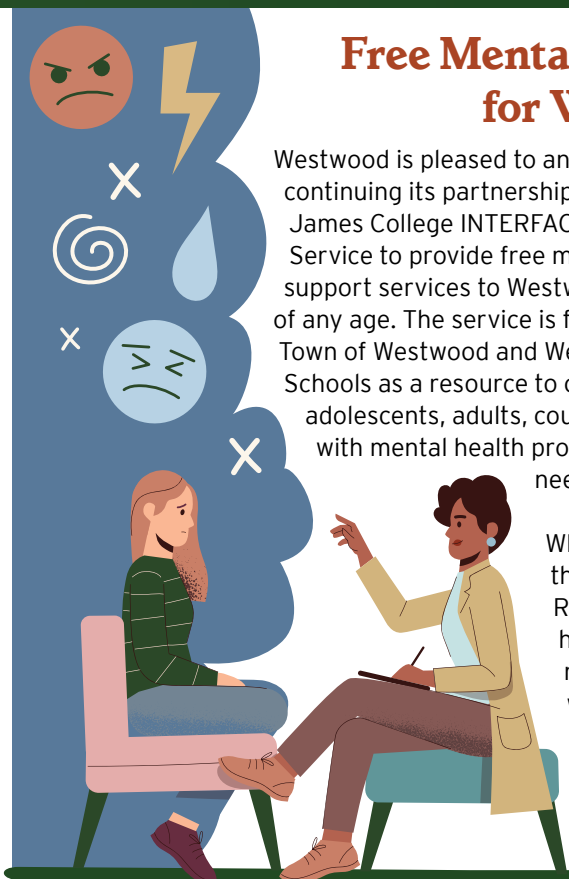
Westwood is pleased to announce it is continuing its partnership with The William James College INTERFACE Referral Service to provide free mental health support services to Westwood residents of any age. The service is funded by the Town of Westwood and Westwood Public Schools as a resource to connect children, adolescents, adults, couples and families with mental health providers when needed.

When you call the INTERFACE Referral Service helpline, a representative will ask you about your specific needs and insurance. After the initial

call, an INTERFACE staff member will provide contact information to reach a mental health professional that meets your specific needs and is available to begin meeting in-person, over the phone or through video. All communication is confidential.

INTERFACE has been well-utilized by Westwood. Each year since the launch of the partnership, hundreds of residents have called in and been connected to providers to address mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, grief and loss.

To use the INTERFACE Referral Service, simply call 1-888-244-6843 Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or go online to <http://interface.williamjames.edu/>.



**WESTWOOD YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO VOLUNTEERED WITH OUR 2021-2022 MENTOR PROGRAM** providing over 1,500 hours of community service to the Town of Westwood. We would also like to thank our school and community partners who helped make this year a success!



**TEEN SCENE @ LIBRARY:**

- Abigail Forrest
- Declan O’Leary
- Divya Siddi
- Effie DeMelle
- Elizabeth Collins
- Emma Cote
- Ethan Lu
- Hannah Conant
- Hibah Ali
- Isabelle Rands
- Julia Ritzenberg
- Kelly Haddad
- Liam McWeeney
- Londyn Rolfe
- Luke Gaydos
- Matthew Ahou
- Nicole Bagdasarian
- Patrick McGonagle
- Rebecca Starling
- Ruby Fyffe
- Seowon Park
- Sienna Horn

**FRIENDS NETWORK**

- Daniel Tryder
- Lizzy Collins
- Eve Polvay
- Gabby Bernadeau
- Grace Sterling
- Hibah Ali
- Jacob Kalamvokis
- Jake Minsky
- Jacob Tryder
- Jason Cassarino
- Jefferson Ji
- Jimmy Liang
- Joanne Flevarakis
- Hannah Conant
- Karen Li
- Mallory Morrison
- Meaghan McNutt
- Mia Warrington
- Michael Stoll
- Ryan Li
- Sandria Chen
- Sofia DeAngelis
- Stephen Zeuthen
- Will LaRose

**WESTWOOD WRITES: AN INTER-GENERATIONAL PEN PAL PROGRAM:**

- Adrienne Lee
- Alissa Mullen
- Brendan Varnerin
- Chaya Elgart
- Donald Varnerin
- Emma Cote
- Isabelle Ritz
- Kevin Chin
- Kristen teDuits
- Laila Shelburne
- Layla Nicolas
- Maddie Mulligan
- Marissa Daly
- Nora Fortune
- Ruby Codrington
- Sandria Chen
- Sophie Ritz
- Tara Mastandrea
- Victoria McGowan
- Wilfred Chilangwa
- Will LaRose

**BULLYING PREVENTION THEATER:**

- Ben Methot
- Eve Polvay
- Julia McWeeney
- Karen Li
- Nicola Midiri
- Olivia Li
- Olivia Methot
- Rachel Marcus
- Ryan Li

**BODY SAFETY THEATER:**

- Angelina Homsy
- Colin Greally
- Eve Polvay
- Francesca Gennari
- Grace Foscaldo
- Julia McWeeney
- Meaghan Greally
- Olivia Li
- Rachel Marcus
- Riley Tuccillo

## Westwood's Annual Community Shredding Day

The Westwood Council on Aging, in partnership with the Norfolk District Attorney's Office, is hosting its annual Shredding Day on Thursday, May 5, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. A shredding truck and volunteers will be at the Senior Center parking lot at 60 Nahatan Street, rain or shine.

This is a great opportunity to shred any confidential documents that you no longer need at no cost to you. All Westwood residents are welcome to attend.



### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Residents should drive into the Senior Center Parking Lot and volunteers will take your bags out of your car.
- We ask that residents remain in their car, volunteers will help offload your documents.
- Staples and paper clips are fine, but please no 3-ring binders.
- Limit of three bags or boxes per car.

## Memorial Day Parade Save the Date!

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Westwood's annual Memorial Day Parade is back for 2022! The parade will be held on May 30th starting at 10:00 a.m.

The parade begins at Westwood Town Hall and will proceed down Route 109/High Street to the New Westwood Cemetery where a Memorial Day Ceremony will be held. Check the town website [www.townhall.westwood.ma.us](http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us) for more details.

### Seeking Memorial Day Volunteers!

The town is seeking volunteers to help plant Memorial Day flowers on veterans' graves on Saturday, May 28th, at 9:00 am.

If you are available to help, please send us an email to [volunteers@townhall.westwood.ma.us](mailto:volunteers@townhall.westwood.ma.us).



## CONNECT WITH WESTWOOD

Staying on top of what's going on around Westwood is easier than ever! The town has several options - on a variety of platforms - for all residents to stay on top of public safety information and town business. Residents can visit the town website at [www.townhall.westwood.ma.us](http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us), and click on "notify me" on the main page to sign up.

### ALERT Westwood

The town uses ALERT Westwood for all emergency and non-emergency notifications. Once enrolled, residents have the option to receive notifications via phone, text message, email, or a combination of the three. It is our hope that with a more advanced software, we will be able to communicate with residents more quickly than ever before.

### Westwood Wire

The Westwood Wire is a monthly e-newsletter that includes news provided by the town and information from local groups and organizations within the community.

### Westwood Word

The Westwood Word is the town's new and improved print publication to be distributed three times per year, April (Spring/Summer), September (Fall), and January (Winter). Westwood Word highlights events, happenings, and news within Westwood through town and community submissions. The Westwood Word will be mailed to residential homes.

### Social Media

Westwood has two social media accounts that are actively updated. You can find us on Facebook and Twitter.

### Website Notifications

Residents have the option to sign up for specific email updates of their choice to stay up-to-date on all town news or just specific information from a particular town board or committee.

**WESTWOODWORD**  
580 High Street  
Westwood, MA 02090

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
NORWOOD, MA  
PERMIT 81

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*  
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

## **WANT TO STAY INFORMED ON TOWN EVENTS?**

Scan the QR code below with your smartphone/tablet camera, and you will be directed to the town's notification page.

There you can sign up to receive ALERT Westwood notifications, view the monthly Westwood WIRE (town's e-newsletter), or access the town's social media pages.

